

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7869

S E C R E T TAIPEI 03972

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FIRST WORD PARA ONE TO READ
TAIWAN VICE TAIPEI)

EMO. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, TW
SUBJECT : CH'EN CHU

REF: (A) STATE 157528, (B) TAIPEI 3925

1. TAIWAN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS CHANG CHUN-HUNG
(NANTOU) AND LIN I-HSIUNG (ILAN) CONTACTED EMBOFF
JUNE 23 TO ASK EMBASSY TO EXERT PRESSURE ON MOFA AND OTHER
GROC OFFICIALS SO THAT CH'EN CHU NOT BE ARRESTED. CHANG
AND LIN IMPLIED CH'EN IS STILL IN HIDING; HOWEVER, THEY
FEARED SHE WOULD BE ARRESTED WITHIN ONE WEEK.

2. CHANG OFFERED HIS VIEW THAT GROC STRATEGY APPEARS TO
BE A TWO-STEP PROCESS: FIRST, THE RAID ON CH'EN'S
PREMISES AND THEN, DEPENDING ON "INTERNATIONAL REACTION,"
TO MAKE THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO ARREST CH'EN.

3. CHANG AND LIN INDICATED SOME STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY
AT TAIWAN UNIVERSITY AND CHENG CHI UNIVERSITY IN TAIPEI,
WERE IN AN "AGITATED" FRAME OF MIND AND STATED THAT THEY
WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE A RECURRENCE OF THE CHUNG LI RIOTS.

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THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT IF CH'EN WERE TO BE ARRESTED AND
PUT ON TRIAL SOME FORM OF DISORDER WAS POSSIBLE. THEY
NOTED THAT THIS IN TURN COULD LEAD TO FURTHER POLITICAL
REPRESSION. CHANG AND LIN FURTHER STATED THEIR CONCERN
THAT CH'EN'S ARREST MIGHT BE FOLLOWED BY A CLAMPDOWN ON
OPPOSITIONIST MEMBERS OF THE TPA. THEY NOTED
PARENTHETICALLY THAT IF ARRESTED, CH'EN'S TRIAL WOULD

PROBABLY COME UNDER PROVISION OF MARTIAL LAW, WITH LIN (A WELL-KNOWN LAWYER) NOTING THAT, AS A CIVIL AFFAIRS LAWYER, HE COULD NOT PERSONALLY SERVE AS CH'EN'S LAWYER UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

COMMENT: LOCAL INTEREST IN CH'EN CHU'S SITUATION IS INCREASING. EMBASSY HAS NOW BEEN QUERIED BY LOCAL PRESS AS WELL AS MOFA REGARDING CH'EN AND WHETHER OR NOT SHE HAS FORMALLY ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM.

ACTION REQUESTED: ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT CH'EN WILL REQUEST ASYLUM, THE POSSIBILITY REMAINS. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS CONTINGENCY REPEAT CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE SHOULD CH'EN APPROACH US DURING THE NEXT WEEK. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT CH'EN'S CASE AND OUR HANDLING OF A POSSIBLE REQUEST COULD BECOME A CAUSE CELEBRE ON TAIWAN. WE ARE NOT ABLE AT THIS TIME TO SAY THAT WE SEE A CLEAR AND IMMINENT PHYSICAL THREAT TO CH'EN'S PERSON OTHER THAN HER POSSIBLE APPREHENSION, ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT PENDING TRIAL ON CHARGES PREFERRED BY THE GROC. UNGER

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